

PID - 95/64
4 June 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director, NPIC

FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

SUBJECT: Validity of the Establishment of National [redacted] 25X1

REFERENCES: A. [redacted] 25X1
B. [redacted]
C. PID - 123/63 dated 2 October 1963

25X1

25X1 1. Pursuant to your request, we have reviewed past [redacted] operations and experience in the context of current events in order to determine the validity of a national [redacted] role. We believe that most of the recommendations set forth in PAG memorandum [redacted] are not only as valid as when written, but are strengthened by the currently exhibited reporting weaknesses demonstrated by military field units presently supporting the U. S. at the national policy level. Photographic intelligence can no longer be strictly within the purview of the field commander, for it is a major input into policy decisions at the national level. Producing these significant inputs could be construed to be the responsibility of the National Photographic Interpretation Center, both in charter (NSCID #8) and in practice. 25X1

2. We believe that the concept of field reporting for the rapid dissemination of intelligence at the national level is correct and that such reporting should be developed as close to the zone of operations as is feasible. Further, that such an organization as is necessary to accomplish this mission be a direct adjunct to the National Photographic Interpretation Center; to be directed and permanently maintained by any and all elements of the parent center necessary to provide compatible systems for support, communication and readout, and to reflect national level needs in the production of unbiased, timely and accurate photographic intelligence.

25X1 3. We further believe that in addition to the national role in field reporting that those additional functions as set forth in paragraph 3 (reference B) and which closely parallel similar functions contributing to the growth and efficiency of the National Center will further contribute very substantially to this same growth, efficiency and fine reputation. One exception should be made in paragraph 3b, namely, I do not endorse the statement "-----and provide guidance and support on photographic matters [redacted]"

25X1

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4. My comments on Reference A are contained in Reference C and are essentially the same. Namely, if it is determined that NPIC has the responsibility for staffing and equipping overseas field readout units then by all means an NPIC-type team should perform this function closely following NPIC procedures and drawing fully on NPIC resources.

25X1

5. One thing, among many, that should be borne in mind is that periods of inactivity at [] in the past have involved the time of one PI as far as NPIC was concerned. With a team from NPIC of 4 - 7 men close scheduling of travel would have to be effected to avoid considerable waste of manpower. Team make-up should come in for considerable scrutiny.

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ATTACHMENTS:

- A. []
- B. [] (under separate cover)
- C. PID - 123/63

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PID - 123/63
2 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director/NPIC
FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)
SUBJECT: Comments on Staff Study Presented by The Assistant
for Photographic Analysis, [REDACTED] "NPIC's
Role in Field Readouts"

25X1

1. PID withholds concurrence for the following reasons:

A. Although some people have offered for consideration the thought that NSCID #8 might authorize the Director/NPIC to establish overseas detachments from NPIC to perform PI readout - NO OFFICIAL OPINION has ever been so expressed. Others maintain that there is no such intent in ESCID #8. The official policy in regard to NPIC's overseas role is not known. This would have to be established before concurrence could be intelligently discussed.

B. Attachments C thru F appear to go far beyond the problem stated in the initial paper [REDACTED] "To gain acceptance of NPIC's responsibility for field readout of overflights accomplished against national priority requirements (COMOR)". First, the responsibility must be ascertained before we seek to gain its acceptance. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] This only serves to confound the issue and would require much disentangling and/or monumental coordination before recommendation made in the proposal for "immediate establishment and implementations" could be discussed, let alone effected.

C. Field readouts have been performed in the field apparently due to the need for intelligence of immediate interests to the Theater Commanders. The whole "time element" and "facilities" required by the state of the Art should be reexamined on the basis of 1963-65 versus 1957-59, as to the feasibility and value of adequate field readout. We seriously question the recommendation "That all missions accomplished in the Far East, wherein possible be readout at the field facility to provide expeditious dissemination of intelligence to field commands and headquarters and for continuity of reporting."

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Approved For Release 2002/08/07 : CIA-RDP81T00990R000100090009-5

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